THE HEALTHY PLATE

Use this plate to help you portion your food in a healthy way and make meal planning easier. Portions are based on a small dinner plate.

Fill one-quarter of your plate with a healthy protein source, such as fish, chicken, eggs, cooked beans, lentils, or tofu.

Fill half of your plate with non-starchy vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, cabbage, bell peppers, asparagus, or leafy greens, like spinach or kale.



For good nutrition also choose each day:

- 1 small fruit serving, such as an orange, banana, apple, or 1 cup of berries or melon with each meal.
- 2 to 3 cups of plain milk or yogurt.
- A small amount of healthy fats, such as olive or canola oil, or a small handful of nuts.



Ideas for meals and snacks

These sample meals and snacks include foods from the shopping list below, and follow the tips on the other side. Use these ideas to build healthy, tasty meals. Or create your favorite combinations!

Breakfast		Lunch and Dinner Add 1 cup milk to each meal	
 small whole-wheat bagel with almond butter or cream cheese 1 cup diced melon 1 cup plain yogurt 	 1 scrambled egg or scrambled soft tofu (cooked with 1 tsp. canola or olive oil) 1 whole-wheat English muffin 1 tsp. trans fat-free margarine 	3 oz. tuna or turkey sandwich on whole-wheat bread with 1–2 tsp. mayonnaise or 1–2 Tbsp. avocado, lettuce or spinach, tomato, and onion	 3 oz. broiled or baked fish or 1 cup diced extra firm tofu (sautéed with 1 tsp. olive oil and garlic) tossed salad with olive oil (1-2 tsp.) and vinegar, or 1-2 Tbsp.
 1 oz. whole-grain cereal ½ banana 1 slice whole-wheat toast 1 tsp. trans-fat-free margarine 1-2 Tbsp. walnuts 1 cup milk 	1 small peach, orange, or nectarine1 cup milk	carrots or broccoli 1 orange	nonfat or low-fat dressing 1 cup quinoa, yam, or wholegrain pasta steamed vegetables tossed with 1–2 Tbsp. slivered almonds vegetarian chili side salad with olive oil (1–2 tsp.) and vinegar, or 1–2 Tbsp. low-fat or nonfat dressing 1/3 cantaloupe
	 2 slices whole-wheat bread 2 Tbsp. "natural" peanut butter 1 cup milk 	 3-4 oz. lean hamburger or veggie (bean, lentil, soy) burger on whole-wheat bun garden salad with olive oil (1-2 tsp.) and vinegar, or 1-2 Tbsp. nonfat or low-fat dressing diced peaches or pear 	
• 1 cup plain yogurt, mixed	• 1 small apple		
with 2 Tbsp. raisins or ½ cup diced fruit 1 small bran muffin	 1 cup brown rice 1 poached or boiled egg (optional) 1 cup vegetables ½ cup diced mango 		
2 small whole-grain pancakes1 cup berries1 cup milk		1 cup canned black bean soup (lower sodium)whole-grain crackers1 apple	Chinese cuisine: 1 cup brown rice 1 cup broccoli chicken, beef, or tofu 1 cup hot-and-sour soup
	 1 cup oatmeal with 2 Tbsp. raisins or dried fruit 1 cup milk 1 Tbsp. slivered almonds 		
		• 1 low-fat, low-sodium frozen entree or vegetarian entree	
Snacks		 green salad with fresh vegetables, olive oil (1–2 tsp.) 	Indian cuisine: • 3 oz. tandoori chicken or
• 1 cup plain yogurt or 1/1/2 cup cottage cheese	raw vegetables with nonfat salad dressing or hummus	and vinegar, or 1–2 Tbsp. nonfat or low-fat dressing • 1 plum	1 cup lentil soup (dal) 1/2-1 cup steamed rice 1/2 cup raita (cucumber and yogurt) steamed broccoli Mexican cuisine: 2 bean tacos made with 2 corn tortillas, 1/2 cup whole beans, 11/2 oz cheese (optional), salsa, and shredded lettuce or cabbage diced mango
• 2 Tbsp. dried fruit or nuts	medium apple with 1–2 Tbsp. natural peanut butter	 2-3 oz. skinless baked or grilled chicken or ½ -1 cup black-eyed peas 1 cup steamed greens with a dash of hot sauce ½ cup brown rice small slice low-fat cornbread 1 fresh fruit 	
• fresh fruit	• 3 large rye wafer crackers		
3 cups air-popped or light microwave popcorn	• 1½ oz. cheese • fresh vegetables		
Healthy meals s	tart at the store. Use	this shopping list to	help you prepare:

Healthy meals start at the store. Use this shopping list to help you prepare:

- ✓ Fruits-fresh, frozen, canned in their own juice, or dried
- ✓ Plain dairy milk, or fortified soy, rice, or almond milk
- ✓ Plain dairy or soy yogurt
- ✓ Cottage cheese or cream cheese
- ✓ Cheese
- ✓ Nonfat or olive oil-based salad dressing
- ✓ Olive or canola oil
- ✓ Quinoa (pronounced "keen-wah")

- ✓ Vegetables—fresh, frozen or low-sodium canned
- ✓ Whole beans (canned or dried)
- ✓ Hummus
- ✓ Tofu
- ✓ Lean pork or beef
- ✓ Salmon, tuna, or other fish
- ✓ Chicken or turkey without skin
- √ Egg or egg substitute
- ✓ Unsalted nuts or seeds

- ✓ Natural peanut or other nut butter
- ✓ 100% whole-wheat or whole-grain bread/rolls/bagels
- ✓ Rye wafer or whole-wheat crackers
- ✓ Brown rice or whole-wheat pasta
- ✓ Whole-grain cereal
- ✓ Whole grains (bulgur, whole cornmeal, hulled barley, whole-wheat couscous)
- ✓ Tortillas (corn or whole-wheat)

This information is not intended to diagnose health problems or to take the place of medical advice or care you receive from your physician or other medical professional. If you have persistent health problems, or if you have additional questions, please consult with your doctor.